

ER 11-628.e

27 JAN 1959

Mr. David H. Barnow, President
Hearing Aid Industry Conference, Inc.
2900 West 36th Street
Chicago 32, Illinois

Dear Mr. Barnow:

Thank you very much for your letter of 19 January inviting me to participate in the symposium sponsored by the Hearing Aid Industry Conference to be held at the Savoy-Hilton in New York on 17 February.

I sincerely regret that I will be unable to attend as I have a previous engagement on that date and therefore must decline your very kind invitation. However, your courtesy in asking me to join you on this particular occasion is indeed appreciated and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success in your program.

Once again, many thanks and kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/DCI/ 22 Jan 59

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H EARING AID INDUSTRY CONFERENCE, INC.

Please Reply to President's Office

2900 West 36th Street

Chicago 32, Illinois

LAfayette 3-7984

January 19, 1959

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2430 E Street
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

Usually we think of prejudice in terms of discrimination against minority groups. In actual practice, however, prejudice takes many forms. Perhaps the most tragic type is that which is inwardly directed, causing an individual to choose social isolation rather than face some unpleasant fact and take steps to correct it.

This is the problem created for themselves by millions of Americans -- people with hearing impairments -- who refuse to accept the medical and mechanical assistance that can restore them to normal social communication. Whether the reason is a refusal to admit to themselves the fact of hearing loss or a mistaken belief that the use of a hearing aid stamps one as "peculiar," the result can often be devastating, emotionally as well as financially.

As president of the hearing aid manufacturers association, formed to improve services and the social climate for the hard of hearing, I am appealing to you to join with us in solving this problem. On Tuesday, February 17, the Hearing Aid Industry Conference will sponsor the first joint symposium of all groups working on behalf of people with hearing impairments. Other invited organizations are the Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists, the American Speech and Hearing Association and the American Hearing Society.

The purpose is to exchange information and insight on this and related problems so we can better serve people who suffer hearing losses. In this connection, we feel that the insight you can provide from your own adjustment to a hearing loss can be of enormous value to those of us working in the field, and your personal prestige given in support of the program can be invaluable in helping others to make the same realistic adjustment.

PRESIDENT

DAVID H. BARNOW

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DIRECTOR

WILLIAM N. BROWN

Diatograph Products, Inc.

Mr. Allen W. Dulles

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January 19, 1959

The symposium will be held in the Chateau of the Savoy-Hilton Hotel, 58th Street at 5th Avenue, in New York City, and will run from 9 to 11:30 AM. This will be followed by a short press conference, and then luncheon and further discussion. Your participation in as much of the program as your schedule will allow would be most appreciated. May I assure you that no commercial use, in terms of endorsement of any manufacturers' products, would be made of your name.

Respectfully yours,

HEARING AID INDUSTRY CONFERENCE, INC.

DHB Barnow

David H. Barnow
President

DHB:nr